

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**DISTRICT 6**

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

July 3, 2019

JULY 03 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

06- TUL-137-18.04

MND

ST. RITAS CHURCH

SCH # 2019069053

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Steven Sopp, Associate Planner
 City of Tulare
 Community Development – Planning Division
 411 E. Tulare Street
 Tulare, CA 93274

Dear Mr. Sopp:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed St. Rita's Catholic Church. The project proposes a five-building church complex anticipated to be constructed in phases. The first phase would construct a 15,667 square foot (sq. ft.) main sanctuary, expected to be completed in 2020.

Future phases include full buildout of the church per the following: 1) Expand the main sanctuary by approximately 7,165 sq. ft.; 2) Expand the main sanctuary by approximately 668 sq. ft. for a day chapel, bringing the total size of the sanctuary to approximately 23,500 sq. ft. with seating for approximately 1,443 parishioners; 3) Construct a Youth Center/Parish Hall at 7,557 sq. ft. to serve as a multi-purpose room which will have a kitchen, classrooms, and bathroom facilities; 4) Construct an approximately 18,968 sq. ft. two-story Classroom Building; 5) Construct a 1,665 sq. ft. Parish Office for church staff; and 6) Construct a 1,200 sq. ft. Rectory building for on-site living facilities for church leaders.

The project site is located on southwest corner of Bardsley Avenue and Morrison Street, approximately one mile south of State Route (SR) 137 and 1.4 miles east of SR 99.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development -Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

Caltrans provides the *following comments* consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. Caltrans anticipates traffic generated from the St. Rita's Church will not have a significant impact to State facilities. Trip generation rates indicate the proposed church will generate nominal weekday AM and PM peak hour trips. The church will offer two (2) masses on Saturdays and (4)

four masses on Sundays. Operating hours will be from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM, seven (7) days a week with eight (8) employees.

2. The City of Tulare in conjunction with Caltrans is developing conceptual plans for the future signalization of the ramps at the SR 99 and Bardsley interchange. Caltrans acknowledges that the majority of trips generated by the Project will likely occur outside of the weekday AM and PM peak hours. The City should determine whether the project contributes its fair share to the City of Tulare’s Impact Fee Program for any necessary future mitigation for the improvements of the State and local transportation facilities in the area.
3. Alternative transportation policies should be applied to the development. An assessment of multi-modal facilities should be conducted to develop an integrated multi-modal transportation system to serve and help alleviate traffic congestion caused by the project and related development in this area of the City. The assessment should include the following:
 - a. Pedestrian walkways should link this proposal to an internal project area walkway, transit facilities, as well as other walkways in the surrounding area.
 - b. The project should consider bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation and offer internal amenities to encourage bicycle use which should include parking, security, lockers and showers.
 - c. If transit is not available within ¼-mile of the site, transit should be extended to provide services to what will be a high activity center.

If you have any other questions, please call me at (559) 488-7396.

Sincerely,



DAVID DEEL
Associate Transportation Planner
Transportation Planning – North